WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

New package for development of NER

749. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to announce any new package for the development of North-Eastem Region;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI ARUNSHOURIE):(a)No,Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Recently in 2000 the Prime Minister had announced an agenda for Socio-Economic Development of North-Eastem States and Sikkim at an estimated cost of Rs. 10,271 crores which has now been revised to Rs.*13,390.29 crores. Various Programmes and Schemes under the agenda are under implementation. The Projects/schemes under the agenda relate to infrastructural development in the sectors of Power, Roads, Airports, Health and Other schemes of employment generation etc. On completion of these schemes/programmes, the North Eastern States will have better infrastructure, greater connectivity and increase in employment opportunities.

The status of implementation of programmes and Schemes of Prime Minister's Agenda for Socio-Economic Development of North Eastern States and Sikkim, announced at Shillong on 22nd January, 2000 can also be seen at website: pmindia.nic.in.

Valuation of PSUs to be disinvested

750. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to disinvest some PSUs by the end of March, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether proper valuation of such PSUs has since been completed; and

(d) if not, on what basis the disinvestment will take place in these PSUs?

THE MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Companies slated for disinvestment during the year 2001 -02 include Bharat Heavy Plates & Vessels Limited (BHPV), CMC Limited, IBP Co. Limited, Indian Petrochemicals Corporation Limited (IPCL), India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC), Instrumentation Control Valves Limited (ICVL), Jessop & Co. Limited, Maruti Udyog Limited, NEPA Limited, HTL Limited, Hindustan Zinc Limited, Hotel Corporation of India Limited and Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited (VSNL). Out of these, the disinvestment process in HTL Limited and CMC Limited, has been completed. The Disinvestment process in ITDC (1st tranche) and Hotel Corporation of India Limited has also been partially completed.

(c) Disinvestment of Government equity in PSUs is carried out through a transparent process which *inter-alia* involves open competitive bidding, valuation of the enterprises etc. In each case of disinvestment this procedure is followed.

(d) Does not arise in view of reply to (c) above.

Disinvestment plan regarding ITDC and HCI Hotels

751. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have adopted a flexible approach in its disinvestment plans in the case of ITDC and HCI Hotels.

(b) whether two of the better performing hotels in Delhi and Bangalore are being offered on lease while the remaining six are to be sold outright;

(c) whether the funds that accure from the sale of five hotels will go to Air India to enable it to clean up its balance sheet prior to its disinvestment; and

(d) if so, the details of these plans?

THE MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) The process of disinvestment in both India Tourism Development Corporation Limited (ITDC) and Hotel Corporation of India (HCI) has been taken up following the acceptance of the recommendations of the Disinvestment Commission by